

The Gilmer News & Gossip/

Five Cents

24th Issue

"The News Knows"

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The reason for our long absence can be blamed squarely on our typist. Over the past six months several issues have been prepared by the staff of this newspaper. Those issues were lost forever on the desk of the typist. Good help, as they say, is hard to find. --RH, CH, & BH

What follows is a capsule of events culled from those unpublished issues.

The most dramatic news concerns Estes Thompson, a suspected Tomcat who gave birth to four kittens. Three weeks later, as Estes was nursing her kittens in a North Chatham yard, she was jumped by Jake Pittman, who is a large black and tan coon hound. In the ensuing fray, Estes was killed. She was buried and the orphaned kittens raised by bottle to imminent cathood.

Meanwhile, in an upstairs porch compartment formerly occupied by Blossom O'Possum (who mysteriously vanished), Oswald the white rabbit has surprised observers by twice giving birth to a total of four baby rabbits. (They were stillborn.) There is a move underway to change Oswald's name to Marina.

Down at the post office, more baby chicks have arrived to be unclaimed and abandoned. This time, however, a prominent local lawyer recognized a bargain and got the whole box of chicks for five dollars--thus saving the chicks. For what is unknown.

The Nose reported the behavior of a Chatham lady who refused to honor the first summons to jury duty she ever received. In her late seventies, the lady informed the clerk that she had never been in a courtroom in her life--despite the fact that both her father and husband were lawyers. She stated: "My father always told me that court is no place for a lady." She was excused.

The only hot scandal in town has centered, predictably, on South Main Street. A debate rages over the snacking habits of a well-known dog who is named after a country music singer and belongs to an unidentified Town Councilman. She has bitten at least six people. (One of this dog's former neighbors, Tracker Bloomer, is the black and tan coon hound who was banished by court order and sent to North Carolina for such behavior.) At first a petition was reported to be circulating in South Chatham calling for either the banishment of the dog or the recall of the Town Councilman. But cooler heads seem to have taken control. At last report, the petition movement had died down as residents realized that as long as the Town Councilman's dog is uncontrollable around town, there is little chance that he will ever lend his weight in support of the dreaded leash law occasionally proposed for Chatham dogs.

On the other end of town, a sexy new dish arrived in the back yard of a North Chatham insurance man. Among other things, the dish picked up the "Playboy Channel," which could be seen on the television monitor in the yard as the technicians adjusted the dish to pick up satellite transmissions. Boys of all ages flocked around, and the insurance man indicated that he thought about charging admission and selling popcorn.

In town for a visit recently was a distinguished professor from Philadelphia who was seriously wondering why people, during the evolution of mankind, have never developed wheels to replace their feet. That question certainly says more about the professor and evolution than it does about people and their feet.

While the blight of newspaper tubes continues to spread, residents concerned about the beauty of their town have been painting the tubes a dark green--a great help. More people need to follow suit.

The Nose also reported that the wife of a local octogenarian claims he has taken to using Grecian Formula hair tonic. The couple wishes to remain anonymous. However, as a hint the Nose offered that the gentleman's middle name is Reginald and the middle name of his wife is Lucretia, two facts of such obscurity that no one could possibly recognize them.